

## Discussion Guide Sept. 17, 2017 :Vision Real Worship

**READ** John 4:6-42; Roman 12:1-2

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Last week we kicked-off our Vision series by looking at Psalm 67 and Matthew 28 that clearly declare that God's vision and mission is to reconcile people to Himself through Jesus. That's why our mission statement at New Life is *"helping people find and follow Jesus."* In order to help us accomplish that God-given mission, we've developed 4 core values that drive what we do. Real worship, authentic community, multiplying disciples and fearless mission. This week, we're unpacking real worship. How does the Bible define worship? Is it just singing songs, or is it something more?

Recognizing that our expressions of worship are diverse, let's begin with a simple definition of "worship." Worship is a feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity. Expanding the definition, worship is recognizing God for who He is; it is God's people telling Him about the worth they see in Him. I want to offer you some quotes about worship that will hopefully spur your thoughts about worship.

1. Jesus says in John 4:24 *"those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth."* **Just what does Jesus mean and how do we know we are doing that?**
2. A.W. Tozer says *"What comes to mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us."* (That's pretty rich, isn't it?) **How does Tozer's quote intersect with Jesus' words above and how can we come to the place where we have a sense of worshipping God in spirit and truth?**
3. R.C. Sproul says *"God is never pleased with ignorant worship, with worship that is not grounded in the knowledge of God."* Lamar Boschman adds *"When I worship, I would rather my heart be without words than my words be without heart."* **If there is to be a combination of spirit (heart/emotions) and truth (word of /knowledge of God), what helps you integrate the two that might encourage or assist others in fuller and more enjoyable seasons of worship?**
4. What hinders your worship when we gather on Sunday? It's been said *"Christians don't tell lies, they just go to church and sing them."* **Ouch!** Granted our hearts may not always be in the right spot as we come to corporate "worship." Our music is meant as a prompt to get us into "position." Sometimes music can lead us to believe and act in accordance with what the lyrics express. Maybe you won't feel that way all the time. But can you focus on the words, their meaning, and allow them to encourage your heart and inspire your worship upward? **What hinders your worship when we gather on Sunday?** If you aren't worshipping on Monday as on Sunday, are you worshipping?

**In your own time . . .** It's been said that *"God, the object of our worship, also becomes the inspiration for that worship."* Good music is sometimes a tool to prime the pump for our worship and remind us of His character, worth and majesty. (Ain't it a shame that the term "awesome" has been hijacked by culture and watered down to mean so little?) Now slow down. Try using these inspirational phrases from a classic worship song to start your vision upward: **Lord**, there is none like You; **the wonder** of Your mighty love; **You are** my comfort, shelter, refuge and strength; **mountains will bow** and seas roar at the mention of Your name; **nothing compares** to the promises I have in You. Dwell on these thoughts about God for a while. Add your own. Sing to Him if you like.